



St Joseph's Primary School

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Parent Update

21st May 2026

May Bank Holiday

Please remember that school will be closed for all pupils on Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th of May for the Bank Holiday and for Staff Development Training. Enjoy the long weekend and the predicted good weather.

First Communion

Last Saturday the 16th May our P4 pupils celebrated the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in St Colmcille's, surrounded by their families, friends and teachers. It was a lovely occasion, and the boys and girls were a credit to their school and their families. They looked fantastic and were very reverent and well prepared for the celebration. My thanks to the pupils and staff for their hard work, to our choir who have been tireless in their contribution to school events this year, to Father Conor for making the day extra special and to our PTA and volunteers for the fantastic spread of buns, treats and tea and coffee after the Sacrament. The day showcased all that makes our school community so special.

Sports Day 2026

Our Sports Days were held on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th May at Dundela FC. Despite it being a very wet May we managed to get both days completed with only slightly damp feet. As usual, the days were action packed with a focus on teamwork, cooperation and developing a range of fundamental skills. My thanks to Cavehill Spar for their ongoing sponsorship of the event, to Dundela FC for the use of their pitch and premises and to Mrs Duffy for her tireless coordination and organisation of the day.

Diversity Day

On Wednesday 20th May we celebrated the many cultures and backgrounds in our school community with a special assembly. We were treated to traditional Irish, Indian and Chinese dancing, singing in Spanish and French, reading in Polish and a fantastic [video](#) charting the many backgrounds and home languages that enrich our school community. It was a fantastic occasion, brightened up by many pupils wearing traditional dress from around the world and sharing their culture and traditions with their classmates and teachers. The assembly was attended by special visitors from the 'Schools of Sanctuary' project and the chair of our Board of Governors, Mrs Patterson. Many thanks to Ms Liu, our Mandarin teacher for organising our traditional Chinese performers and a huge St Joseph's thank you to Mrs Magee and Mrs Wright for organising our Diversity Day Assembly this year! 'We all matter, we all belong.'

YouTube Channel



Please scan the QR code and subscribe to St Joseph's YouTube channel. Earlier this year, the Digital Leaders set a target of 300 followers. We are almost there, so if you haven't already subscribed, please do! Take a glimpse at school events, with upcoming highlights including our Diversity Day Assembly and the Mr Ryan Cup final!

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.josephspsballyhackamore1636>

PTA Update.

The PTA would like to extend their thanks once again to all the friends and families of St Joseph's who have supported the school throughout the year and in particular for our very successful Marathon fundraiser which has raised in excess of £10,500 for the school. The next events on the calendar are the School Fair on Saturday 13th June and the End of Term Disco for P4 – P7 which will take place on Thursday 25th June. More details of these will be shared in the days ahead.

P1 Induction Days

We are delighted to announce that we will have close to 60 new P1 pupils joining us in September for the new school year. They have recently received an invite to come to St Joseph's for special Induction Days on either Tuesday 9th or Wednesday 10th June at 2pm. To facilitate this, our current P1 pupils will finish early on both days at 12.30pm.

Dates for April/May

Dates	Description
Monday 25 th – Wed 27 th May	School Closed for Pupils – Staff Development Days
Tuesday 9 th and Wed 10 th June	P1 Induction at 2pm
Saturday 13 th June	Summer Fair 12 – 4pm
Tuesday 16 th June	P7 Leavers Play @ 11am
Wednesday 17 th June	Mrs Ryan Cup Final @ 11am
Thursday 25 th June	Leavers Mass @ 9.30am
Thursday 25 th June	Leavers Disco @ 6.30pm
Tuesday 30 th June	Half Day finish for all pupils – end of term

Kind regards
Mr C Donnelly